



SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

& SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

LATE SUMMER GUIDE 2006

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Important news to know before you go

WEEKDAY TRAFFIC DELAYS ~ Starting in mid-August, major repairs to the Generals Highway should begin. The roadway involved is in Sequoia Park, between Hospital Rock Picnic Area and the Giant Forest, and includes Amphitheater Point overlook. Planned work schedule: Monday-Thursday, 6am-4:30pm, and Friday 6am-noon. Uphill traffic will start through on the hour, then downhill traffic will pass. Aim to be at the work zone 10 minutes before the hour. While waiting, put the car in park and keep your foot off the brake so that brakes don't overheat! Occasional night work and schedule changes may be necessary. Last restrooms before the construction are at Hospital Rock and at Giant Forest Museum. Thank you for your patience as we work to rebuild this failing historic road.

NEW SHERMAN TREE TRAILS ~ New parking lots and trails now lead to the General Sherman Tree. You'll find the main route to the tree off the Wolverton Road between the Sherman Tree and Lodgepole. From there you walk *down* to the tree. A handicapped-accessible parking area and trail are along the Generals Highway; from there you walk *up* to the tree on a gentler slope, but you need a permit to park there (ask at a visitor centers if you need one). See *Highlights* on page 6 for details on getting to this giant tree. Soon new trailside exhibits will complete the scene.

"NEW" VISITOR CENTER ~ Finally, Kings Canyon National Park has a visitor center of its own. New exhibits at the former Grant



DRIVE TIME TO CONSTRUCTION ZONE FROM:

- Ash Mountain (Hwy 198) Entrance – 30 Minutes
- Foothills Visitor Center – 25 Minutes
- Potwisha Campground – 16 Minutes
- Hospital Rock Picnic Area – 10 Minutes
- Giant Forest Museum – 15 Minutes

See details in "Weekday Traffic Delays" to the left.

Grove Visitor Center showcase not only the big trees, but the expansive High Sierra and the huge canyon that gave the park its name. Funded by entrance fees, donations, and grants, the exhibits even include interactive computer programs about local air quality. Stop in and learn about preserving the three great natural landscapes of this park.

BIG TREE CLOSES BIG STUMP ~

A very large, very hollow sequoia threatened to fall on the old Big Stump park entrance station on Highway 180 – and on visitors waiting to enter the park! This meant cutting down the tree or moving the station. Since these parks exist to protect sequoias, the station was moved to the Big Stump Picnic Area. Until a better site can be built for a new entrance station, take your picnic bas-

ket to Columbine (or see the park map for other picnic areas). If you want to explore an area that was logged in the last century, try Converse Basin, north of Grant Grove in the National Forest.

DON'T MISS THE FAMILY NATURE PROGRAM (through August 20th) & CELEBRATE SEQUOIAS (September 9th)!

~ Check out the nature programs and exhibits at Beetle Rock Education Center, across the road from the Giant Forest Museum, between 10 am and 4 pm (see page 3 and *Nature Programs*, page 8).
~ The 8th Annual "Celebrate Sequoias Festival" returns to Princess Campground on Saturday, 9/9, with walks, living history, arts & crafts, kid's activities, and expert insights on the awesome sequoias.